



Match Report

U8 Premier Trophy Event – Sunday 20th March 2016

Saturday's Trophy event showed excellent performances from SSA both individually and collectively. Various targets were set during the different games played; in the first match, releasing was the target. Jayden's releasing was very good and led to him receiving player of the match against Hurstwood. In particular, it was the timing of release, which led to Jayden's success against Hurstwood, by playing the ball at the correct moment means the opposition have the least chance of regaining the ball, therefore leading to a greater amount of successful attacks. He also played numerous superb forward passes. In the second match, Jayden received the ball on his back foot to play forward and start attacks, which was the target set against Skilful Sports. After receiving, he looked to play the ball wide accurately, where SSA then looked to exploit the space left by the opposition. Jacob also played accurate passes into the wide players for SSA. By using the inside of his foot to be able to punch through the middle of the ball. This ensures that the ball will not be bobbling to his team mate, therefore being playable. In addition, the weight of his pass was very good, as was the direction on to the back foot of the man he looked to play to. This is important, as it means the option of being able to play quick is available at all opportunities. As well as, being the optimal way to keep possession of the ball as the passes will be accurate and not going astray. Throughout match 3, he attempted to receive the ball as high up the pitch as possible, then looking to turn and drive at the defenders and be positive whilst attacking the defenders. Someone who also looked to use the inside of his foot consistently when passing to his team was Dio. As mentioned before, this is vital in the given the player to next receive the ball the best opportunity to retain possession. In match 3 against Pickwick, he received player of the match, due to him building play from defence in order to work goal-scoring opportunities, furthermore when the play was ahead of him he attempted to always be an option from behind the ball. Once again, the importance of this is huge because it allows his side to have the option to retain possession if they cannot go forward and therefore can attack from a different angle.

Jack C's decision-making was excellent, especially against Hurstwood when setting the ball to teammates, whilst under pressure. He done this by punching through the back of the ball, with great weight, leaving the ball playable for his team. This was good, as it allowed SSA to maintain possession of the ball when they were under pressure. Against Pickwick, the forward passes he played were accurate and allowed SSA to attack quickly and with purpose. Then finally in match 4 against Padnell Rovers, Jack held his defensive position brilliantly and recognised where the ball, his team and where the opponents were in relation to the ball and was then able to position accordingly. Also in 1 vs 1 defending he was in the surf board position which enabled him to regain the ball for SSA. He done this by being on the balls of his feet, side on and with his knees bent. This ensures he is able to react to the players movements on the ball.

Match 2 against Skilful Sport saw Lenny pick up the player of the match award. He received this due to him showing the ability to receive the ball on his back foot. After this, he played superb defence splitting passes, which led to numerous goal-scoring opportunities. Then in match 4 versus Padnell Rovers, Lenny was set the target of regaining the ball three times for SSA, which he successfully completed. Lenny showed amazing determination and effort to regain the ball for his side and worked tirelessly to win the ball back for his side. Continuing further against Padnell Rovers, player of the match was awarded to Jack R, as he also showed unbelievable work rate off the ball to make regains for SSA. What was particularly impressive was how Jack showed the opponent one way and therefore made it hard for the opposition to play through and this then meant SSA were able to regain the ball plenty of times. In match 2 Jack's decision making was very good. Being able to choose the optimal play whether it be to combine, run solo, use ball manipulation or beat a man moves. This enabled Jack to retain possession on a consistent basis throughout the matches played. In addition, he looked to receive on his back foot regularly to play forward. In relation to the receiving skills shown by all players so far, Dorian received on his front foot twice to retain the ball. When under pressure with the defender behind you receiving on the foot is the optimal decision as this ensures that you do not lose possession of the ball. In addition, this means Dorian must have scanned before the ball came to him, allowing him to make the decision he made based on the information, which he acquired. Finally, against Padnell Rovers he worked very hard defensively, applying a high press. The high press requires high intensity and means that SSA can regain the ball as close to the opposition goal as possible.

SSA provided moment of the tournament collectively. Jack R worked relentlessly to win the ball back for SSA, when he achieved this he released the ball down the line to Jack C. Jack C receiving the ball on his back foot, spotted Dorian's run and played an excellent Three Toe curled pass into his path. Dorian latching onto the pass, using the inside of his foot, placed the ball into the bottom corner past the goalkeeper. Incredible team play from SSA.



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Overall, it was a successful day for SSA. Individually and collectively showing amazing skills and great technical understanding of various aspects of the game. As well as fantastic effort throughout. Well done to all players!